

Message Text

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21

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1787

SECDEF//ISA/DSAA

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MASS MU US

SUBJECT: OMANI REQUEST FOR NAVAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) 75 MUSCAT 902 (NOTAL, (B) 75 STATE 182970

(DTG 020107Z AUG 75 (NOTAL)

1. OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAYYID FAHAR HAS OCCASIONALLY ALLUDED VAGUELY TO DORMANT PROPOSAL FOR NAVAL TRAINING OF OMANI PRE-CADETS AND SEAMEN IN U.S. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT PRESSED, SAYYID FAHAR SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT BALL IS IN USG COURT, AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISABUSE HIM, THOUGH HIS EXPATRIATE STAFF CERTAINLY KNOWS THAT WE ARE WAITING FOR REQUESTED DETAILS CONCERNING CANDIDATES.

2. BEFORE EMBASSY PURSUES THIS MATTER FURTHER, WE NEED WASHINGTON'S FRANK APPRAISAL OF CHANCES OF SUCCESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROJECT. IS THERE REAL INTEREST IN ASSISTING OMANIS IN THIS TRAINING, OR WOULD WASHINGTON PREFER THAT THIS INITIATIVE DIE ON THE VINE? IF THERE IS AT LEAST SOME INCLINATION TO HELP, WHAT WOULD REACTION BE TO OUR PROPOSING TO SAYYID FAHAR THAT HE SEND AN OFFICER TO DISCUSS MATTER IN FURTHER DETAIL AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES IN SITU? (WE HAVE IN MIND THAT WE COULD COACH HIM TO SEND MAJOR SALIM AL GHAZALI, SULTAN QABOOS' DEFENSE LIAISON OFFICER, AND A PRIMARY EMBASSY

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TARGET IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP/INFLUENCE; HENCE WE WOULD BE

ACCOMPLISHING ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE OF GETTING AL GHAZALI
TO U.S.)

3. DESPITE MANY PROBLEMS, STARTING WITH LOW EDUCATIONAL
STANDARDS OF CANDIDATES AND RUNNING THROUGH FACT THAT SMALL
SIZE OF PROGRAM MIGHT RAISE QUESTION OF ECONOMY OF SCALE,
EMBASSY THINKS THIS NAVAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE INVEST-
MENT IN TERMS OF USG LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN AREA, MOST SPECI-
FICALLY CONTROL OVER STRAITS OF HORMUZ. WE HAVE ALREADY
EXPLAINED TO OMANGOV THAT THIS WOULD BE FMS CASH SALE PROGRAM,
SO BASIC ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED WOULD SEEM TO CENTER ON
FEASIBILITY AND USG DECISION ON WHETHER TO BE HELPFUL.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 2
ABOVE.
WOLLE

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